Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates.

Dated: March 11, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98–6856 Filed 3–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 98–0303053–8053–01]

Notice of Conference on Database Protection and Access Issues

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) is announcing that it will hold a one-day conference on issues related to protection of and access to compilations of data.

DATES: The conference will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 1998, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Registration materials must be returned no later than April 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The conference will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 1998, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Falk Auditorium of the Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Conference sessions will be held in the Falk Auditorium, other conference facilities of the Brookings Institution, and conference facilities at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Requests for registration materials should be made to Justin Hughes by electronic mail to database.conference@uspto.gov, by facsimile transmission marked to his attention at (703) 305–8885, or by mail marked to his attention and addressed to the Office of Legislative and International Affairs, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Because of limited seating in the conference facilities, the PTO will accept the first 175 participants on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date and time of each registration request.

There will be a reasonable charge to help defray costs of the lunch and refreshments served at the conference. However, payment is not obligatory to participate in the conference.

Arrangements for conference panelists and moderators will be made separately from conference participant registration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Justin Hughes, by telephone at (703) 305–9300, by facsimile transmission marked to his attention at (703) 305–8885, by electronic mail to database.conference@uspto.gov, or by mail marked to his attention at the Office of Legislative and International Affairs, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Issues concerning legal protection for compilations of data gained increased attention following the Supreme Court's 1991 decision *Feist Publications, Inc.* v. *Rural Telephone Service Co.,* 499 U.S. 340 (1991), which determined that there is no copyright protection for compilations of data that lack creativity in their selection, arrangement, and presentation. The Feist decision, as well as subsequent cases in the lower courts, established that copyright does not protect all compilations of data or of information and that even where copyright exists in such compilations, it provides ''thin'' protection that does not inhibit unauthorized copying of all or substantial amounts of databases.

Protection of compilations of data has also become an issue abroad. In March 1996, the European Commission adopted a Directive on Databases which creates a sui generis intellectual property system for compilations of data. The Directive requires member states of the European Union (EU) to implement national legislation to provide database owners with a right to control extraction and reutilization of data from a proprietary compilation for a fifteen-year term; the Directive provides that member states may create exceptions to liability for education and research uses of databases.

In response to the *Feist* decision, subsequent cases, and the European initiative, H.R. 3531 was introduced in 1996 by then Congressman Carlos Moorhead. House bill 3531 would have provided a sui generis legal regime for database protection. The bill would have protected database owners for a twenty-five-year term from unauthorized extraction, use, or reuse of any substantial part of a database.

In the 105th Congress, Congressman Howard Coble, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, introduced H.R. 2652, the ''Collections of Information Antipiracy Act''. House bill 2652 would provide a database owner with protection against misappropriation of substantial portions of its database if such misappropriation would harm the owner's actual potential market for the database or products incorporating the database. House bill 2652 provides exceptions from liability for use of data for not-for-profit, educational, scientific, research, or news reporting purposes, although the contours of these exceptions may not correspond precisely to fair use exceptions under copyright law. House bill 2652 has been supported by a wide variety of entities in the information industry and has been endorsed by the Copyright Office as a constructive step to restore protection for ''sweat of the brow'' compilations that was eliminated in the *Feist* decision.

At the same time, a number of organizations, particularly in the scientific and academic communities, have expressed concerns that H.R. 2652 may impede access to data necessary to scholarly and scientific research. Scientists have stressed that many research efforts rely on uses of entire databases, uses that might be deemed substantial extraction under the bill's provisions and that privately controlled databases might be priced so as to make many research projects impossible.

Opponents of providing additional database protection have argued that the database market is already characterized by single source, niche marketers; that there is no apparent market failure, i.e. undersupply of databases, because of the absence of comprehensive protection; and that existing copyright and contractual law coupled with current technology provide adequate protection to database owners.

Internationally, in 1996, the European Union submitted a draft international database protection treaty, similar in scope to the EU Directive, to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In anticipation of a WIPO Diplomatic Conference in December 1996, and because of substantial concerns about provisions in the EU proposal, the United States submitted its own proposal to WIPO. The 1996 Diplomatic Conference ultimately focused on copyright and neighboring rights proposals; it did not resolve any issues related to possible protection of databases. WIPO has established a timetable to resume discussions concerning database protection in 1998.

The April 28, 1998 database conference is intended to bring together representatives from academia, private industry, and Government for an in-

depth, day-long discussion of the fundamental questions related to database protection and access. This conference is intended to help policy makers understand the wide range of issues in this important area by soliciting the advice of individual members of the public.

The conference will consist of morning and afternoon plenary sessions with additional, smaller working groups at midday. Conference topics will explore whether a comprehensive regime of legal protection is needed for compilations of data, what safeguards should exist to ensure robust levels of scientific and academic research, what market failures do exist or are likely to exist in data generation industries, and whether government-generated or government-financed data should be subject to special access rules.

Dated: March 11, 1998.

Bruce A. Lehman,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.

[FR Doc. 98–6839 Filed 3–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of an Import Limit for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Guatemala

March 11, 1998.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs increasing a limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 18, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482–4212. For information on the quota status of this limit, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927–5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482–3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limit for Categories 342/642 is being increased by recrediting unused carryforward applied to the 1997 limit.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 62 FR 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Also see 62 FR 67624, published on December 29, 1997.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

March 11, 1998.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on December 19, 1997, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Guatemala and exported during the periods January 1, 1998 through May 30, 1998 and January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1998.

Effective on March 18, 1998, you are directed to increase the limit for Categories 342/642 to 180,210 dozen [1] for the period January 1, 1998 through May 30, 1998, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC).

The Guaranteed Access Level for Categories 342/642 remains unchanged.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that this action falls within the foreign affairs exception of the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 98–6863 Filed 3–16–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Indonesia

March 11, 1998.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 18, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482–4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927–5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482–3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted, variously, for carryforward used and an additional five percent increase for traditional folklore products made from handloomed fabrics.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 62 FR 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Also see 62 FR 67625, published on December 29, 1997.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

March 11, 1998.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on December 19, 1997, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Indonesia and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1998 and extends through December 31, 1998.

Effective on March 18, 1998, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Twelve-month limit [1]
Levels in Group I	
200	793,742 kilograms.
300/301	3,773,207 kilograms.
315–O [2]	25,383,379 square meters.

[1] The limit has not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1997.